

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 147747  
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BDIS, MA

SUBJECT:LAW FIRM SEEKS EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN LITIGATION CASE

1. THE LAW FIRM OF MCKENNA & FITTING IN LOS ANGELES IS INTERESTED IN THE WHEREABOUTS OF STEPHEN D. KINGSLEY, A BRITISH CITIZEN. MR. KINGSLEY WAS IN CHARGE OF THE SALVAGE OPERATION TO BRING A MOBILE OFFSHORE DRILLING RIG, THE GATTO SELVATICO, BACK INTO SERVICE. IN THE PROCESS, IT COLLAPSED AND SANK ABOUT 18 MILES OFF OF CAPE ST. ANDRE IN LATE JANUARY, 1976.

2. MCKENNA & FITTING UNDERSTAND THAT KINGSLEY AND CHRISTOPHER L. WILLIAMS, A SOLICITOR IN LONDON WHO WAS APPARENTLY WORKING WITH KINGSLEY, WERE DETAINED IN MADAGASCAR BY THE POLICE FOR AN UNSPECIFIED PERIOD OF TIME BASED ON "QUASI-POLITICAL CHARGES."

3. THE OWNERS OF THE RIG, AMERICAN PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL, INC. AND R.L. BURNS CORP., ARE INVOLVED IN LITIGATION WITH  
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PAGE 02 STATE 147747

LLOYDS OF LONDON CONCERNING INSURANCE COVERAGE OF THE PLATFORM. MCKENNA & FITTING BELIEVE THAT KINGSLEY'S AND POSSIBLY WILLIAMS' TESTIMONY REGARDING THE SALVAGE VENTURE AND CONDITION OF THE RIG BEFORE AND AFTER ITS COLLAPSE ARE IMPORTANT TO THE LITIGATION.

4. THE LAW FIRM HAS REQUESTED ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING

QUESTIONS:

A) ARE KINGSLEY AND WILLIAMS CURRENTLY IN PRISON AND WHAT ARE THE CHARGES AGAINST THEM?

B) IF THEY ARE IN PRISON, WHAT ARE THEIR PROSPECTS FOR RELEASE?

C) WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO TAKE A DEPOSITION OF KINGSLEY AND/OR WILLIAMS PENDING THEIR RELEASE, AND IF SO, WHAT ARRANGEMENTS WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE, INCLUDING A) COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAW OF MADAGASCAR; B) ARE THERE COURT REPORTING FACILITIES AVAILABLE; AND C) WHERE COULD IT BE CONDUCTED? VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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